

Meaningful Participation in IRWM

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What is Meaningful Participation?

- Inclusive of all interests and perspectives (Diversity)
- Encourages all to see their individual needs in the context of the larger community
- Focuses on resolving issues that matter
- Not a one-way conversation
- All viewpoints are explored and have potential for action



Value of Diversity

- Diversity comes in many forms:
 - **Cognitive** (Perspective and methods to approaching problems)
 - **Identity or Social** (Cultural, ethnic, gender...)
 - **Preference** (Interest and values - Goals)
- Diverse groups perform at a higher level
- Interacting with individuals who are different encourage members to prepare better and anticipate alternative viewpoints



It is the Journey, not just the Destination...

- While tangible results such as projects built are important, the process improvements can be as important
- Builds relationships / Reduces conflict
- Provides new innovative solutions that were unforeseen as an individual or smaller, less diverse group



It's not Easy!

- Convening complex groups is challenging
- Conflict can be expected
- Fact that each participant has different perspective/values/goals sets up the conflict
- Failure of meaningful participation could result to more conflict
- **Collaboration is the Key!**



5 Minute Discussion

- Turn to your neighbor and share a time when a different perspective has helped inform you or your group
- We will ask for one or two Stockton participants to share responses
- Webcast will be on mute during discussions

